

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01

SAM-01 TRSE-00 /068 W

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P R 191103Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1019

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JA

UNCLAS TOKYO 8213

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPR, JA, KS, TW

SUBJ: SATO COMMENTS ON HIS 1969 PRESS CLUB REMARKS

SUMMARY. THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS THE TEXT OF FORMER PRIMIN SATO'S 1971 DIET COMMENTS IN WHICH HE DESCRIBED HIS 1969 PRESS CLUB REMARKS ON PRIOR CONSULTATIONS AS "INAPPROPRIATE". END SUM.

1. DURING HIS 1969 US VISIT, PRIMIN SATO SAID AT THE WASHINGTON PRESS CLUB THAT IF AN ARMED ATTACK AGAINST THE ROK SHOULD OCCUR, JAPAN WILL DECIDE ITS ATTITUDE QUICKLY AND IN A FORWARD-LOOKING MANNER AT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS.

2. THESE REMARKS WERE MODIFIED DURING DIET INTERPELLATIONS ON NOVEMBER 11, 1971 IN A SPECIAL LOWER HOUSE COMMITTEE DELIBERATING THE REVERSION OF OKINAWA. THE LATE PRIME MINISTER'S RESPONSE CAME IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION BY DSP DIET MEMBER EKI SONE. THE TEXT OF SATO'S RESPONSE IS AS FOLLOWS:"IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE TRUST OF THE UNITED STATES. IN THE EXPLANATIONS MADE AT THE PRESS CLUB, THERE WERE PARTS WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE NOT QUITE APPROPRIATE. IT IS OUR PRINCIPLE THAT THERE CAN BE CASES OF SAYING NO AND CASES OF SAYING YES IN PRIOR CONSULTATIONS. I SHOULD HAVE EXPRESSED MYSELF EXACTLY IN THAT WAY. ALTHOUGH MY SAYING THAT "WE WILL HANDLE THE QUES-

TION IN A FORWARD-LOOKING MANNER" DID NOT PROMISE AUTOMATIC APPROVAL, I THINK IT WAS NOT A PROPER EXPRESSION. TO DEFEND WHAT I SAID, IT WAS MEANT AS AN EXPRESSION OF MY IDEA THAT WE WILL REACH A CONCLUSION AS TO WHETHER THE ANSWER IS YES OR NO AT AN EARLY DATE, AT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS, THAT IS, THAT I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE MY REPLY WITHOUT TAKING TOO LONG A TIME. HOWEVER, THIS HAS CREATED THIS MISUNDERSTANDING, AS POINTED OUT BY MR. SONE. I WISH TO MAKE THIS POINT CLEAR ON THIS OCCASION....AT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS COVERING DEPLOYMENT, THERE MAY BE A DANGER OF OUR BECOMING INVOLVED IN A WAR, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION AT THAT TIME.WE ARE HOPING THAT SUCH A DANGER WILL NOT ARISE. STANDING ON THIS JUDGEMENT, FREE TAKEOFF IS NOT DECIDED AUTOMATICALLY. I WISH TO SEE TO IT THAT WE CAN SAY EITHER YES OR NO, INDEPENDENTLY."
HODGSON

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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